

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJECT: PSDI DIRECTORATE BACKS TANASSI' S CALL FOR NEW CENTER- LEFT

REFERENCE: ROME' S 2536, ROME' S 1646

1. SUMMARY: SOCIAL DEMOCRAT DIRECTORATE HAS ENDORSED TANASSI' S RECENT CALL FOR EXPLORATORY TALKS ON RETURN TO CENTER LEFT, WITH CONTINUED FULL SUPPORT OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN MEANTIME. HOWEVER, DIRECTORATE DEBATE REVEALED EXTENSIVE RESERVATIONS AND DOUBTS ON ISSUE, AND TANASSI HIMSELF HAS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR HIS PERSONAL DOUBTS THAT PSI CAN MEET STIFF SOCIAL DEMOCRAT TERMS. END SUMMARY

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRAT DIRECTORATE APPROVED DOCUMENT APRIL 3 FULLY ENDORSING TANASSI' S CALL (ROME' S 2536) FOR EARLY INTER-PARTY DISCUSSIONS LOOKING TOWARD EVENTUAL REINSTITUTION OF CENTER LEFT. DOCUMENT ACCORDS PRESENT GOVERNMENT MERIT OF HAVING AVOIDED POWER VACUUM" AND OF HAVING " CONTAINED AND EVEN DIMINISHED ECONOMIC STAGNATION", AND WARNS THAT " IT WOULD BE GRAVE ERROR TO DISSOLVE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN ABSENCE OF VALID AND CONCRETE ALTERNATIVE." NONETHELESS, DOCUMENT CONTINUES, " PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABLE TO SUPPLY ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO MANY PROBLEMS WHICH BURDEN SOCIETY AND, ABOVE ALL, TO GUARANTEE POLITICAL STABILITY WITHOUT WHICH ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT DO NOT SEEM POSSIBLE." IN CONCLUSION, DIRECTORATE AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF PARTY PRESIDENT
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TANASSI, SECRETARY ORLANDI AND VICE- SECRETARY LONGO (A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF FERRI) TO CONDUCT BILATERAL SOUNDINGS ON SUBJECT WITH OTHER PARTIES OF THE PRESENT MAJORITY AND WITH PSI.

3. SOLE DISSENTING VOTE WAS CAST BY ALDO GAROSCI (CONSERVATIVE NOTABILE), BUT TWO- DAY DEBATE WHICH PROCEDED DOCUMENT' S PASSAGE REVEALED BROAD DIFFERENCES AND RESERVATIONS CONCERNING TIMING, METHODS, AND GOALS OF PLANNED DIALOGUE. PARTY SECRETARY ORLANDI HIMSELF PLACED HEAVY STRESS UPON NEED TO CONTINUE LOYAL SUPPORT OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND TO ASSURE THAT IN ANY FUTURE COLLABORATION

PSI GENUINELY MEETS ALL CONDITIONS OF AUTONOMY, LOYALTY TO MAJORITY, ETC., WHICH PSDI DEMANDS AND THAT IT FAITHFULLY APPLY CENTER- LEFT FORMULA AT LOCAL LEVELS AS WELL. MINORITY LEADER FERRI DECLARED HIS APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF TANASSI INITIATIVE, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER TIME WAS RIPE AND WHETHER THREE- MAN COMMITTEE WAS BEST MODE OF EXPLORING ISSUE. HE SPECIFICALLY WARNED AGAINST FALLING INTO STERILE ACCORDS UPON PREAMBLES AND FORMULAS WHICH HAVE NO REALISTIC CONSEQUENCE. MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM CAME FROM FORMER BUDGET MINISTER PRETI WHO CHALLENGED WHY PSDI SHOULD SPECIFY IN ADVANCE THAT CENTE- LEFT IS ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER TO PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, AND ADDED THAT TALKS WITH PLI THEREBY BECAME POINTLESS. PRETI ENUMERATED IN DETAIL CONDITIONS ALREADY VOICED BY OTHERS WHICH PSI MUST MEET TO QUALIFY FOR GOVERNMENT REENTRY, AND ADDED THE ADDITIONAL ONE OF " RENOUNCING ITS ANTI- AMERICAN POLEMICS."

4. DOCUMENT' S LANGUAGE CLOSELY REFLECTS TANASSI' S REITERATION IN DIRECTORATE DEBATE APRIL 2 OF POINTS MADE IN HIS PANORAMA INTERVIEW LAST WEEK (ROME' S 2536). HOWEVER, IN PERSONAL TALKS WITH CHARGE MARCH 1 (ROME' S 1646) AND AGAIN WITH AMBASSADOR MARCH 28, TANASSI PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT PSI CAN AT PRESENT MEET CONDITIONS PSDI AND OTHERS WILL DEMAND, AND SAID HE HIMSELF WILL NOT HAVE PSI BACK IN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT SOLID GUARANTEES THAT ERRORS OF LAST CENTER- LEFT WILL NOT BE REPEATED. ALTHOUGH TANASSI DID NOT REVEAL HIS MOTIVATION IN PUSHING MATTER AT THIS TIME HE MADE CLEAR HE SAW LITTLE REAL PROSPECT OF SOCIALISTS REENTERING COALITION AT EARLY DATE.

5. COMMENT: SOCIAL DEMOCRAT MOVE MUST BE WEIGHED IN CONTEXT OF INTERNAL PSDI AND MORE COMPLEX INTER- PARTY MANEUVERINGS. CERTINLY MAJOR FACTOR IN TIMING OF INITIATIVE IS DESIRE NOT TO LET DC " LEAP OVER" PSDI AT ITS JUNE CONGRESS. STEP ALSO SERVES
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TO COUNTERACT PAST AND FUTURE ACCUSATIONS FROM DC LEFT AND PSI
THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE TRULY A PARTY OF THE RIGHT RATHER
THAN OF THE LEFT. WITHIN PSDI, PRESENT STATE OF TANASSI' S ONCE
STRAINED RELATIONS WITH SARAGAT IS UNCLEAR, BUT TANASSI' S BOLD
MOVE MAY SERVE TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY STOLEN SARAGAT' S THUNDER
SHOULD NEW CENTER- LEFT EVENTUALLY MATERIALIZE. ON OTHER HAND,
IF SOCIALISTS FAIL TO SATISFY PSDI CONDITIONS (AS TANASSI PRIVATELY
CLAIMS IS LIKELY) NO ONCE CAN THEN ACCUSE EITHER SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
OR TANASSI OF NOT DOING THEIR UTMOST TO HELP KEEP SOCIALIST PARTY
IN DEMOCRATIC AREA. VOLPE

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